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### Draft Global Strategy and Plan of Action

Oxfam welcomes the 2nd draft of the Inter Governmental Working Group (IGWG) strategy. A global strategy implemented by WHO Member States, supported by WHO, could be an effective means to improve the critical lack of access to essential medicines in poor countries. However, the strategy should be based on the overarching principle of the right to basic health care that includes access to medicines. The strategy should focus on actions to implement the CIPIH recommendations.

Global efforts to enhance R&D need to: build capacity in developing countries; enable governments to set public health research priorities; and to monitor implementation and achievements over time. Enhancing developing countries' capacity in R&D requires investment in tertiary education and in public research institutions, as well as the transfer of skills and technology.

The strategy should cover the full range of diseases prevalent in developing countries. Innovative and sustainable mechanisms for financing R&D, such as the Tobin Tax and other incentives that are not dependent on intellectual property ownership should be explored and articulated.

Countries should not be obliged to increase IP protection beyond the TRIPS requirements, and WHO should play a key role in supporting developing countries in implementing the TRIPS flexibilities to enhance access to medicines.

WHO – through its mandate - is the appropriate lead agency to monitor the implementation of the global R&D strategy, with close involvement of civil society organisations among other stakeholders.